



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203 · Harrisburg, PA 17112

Upcoming survey information is contained in this release.
You can also find it on our site at www.nass.usda.gov/pa/ and
click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA To Measure Farmers' Crop Yields

HARRISBURG, PA, July 8, 2010 - - - USDA's **Agriculture Yield Survey** takes only minutes to complete, yet produces some of the most valuable information for farmers to rely on during the crop year.

The Agriculture Yield Survey is conducted monthly in all states except Alaska and Hawaii. It is the primary tool used by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to measure crop production throughout the growing season. The information provided enables NASS to track and report any changes that might occur in expected yields due to weather, pests, diseases or other factors. The information allows the industry to forecast transportation and storage requirements and evaluate export potential. USDA agencies and state Departments of Agriculture use the information to determine crop insurance and disaster aid payments along with other program benefits. Farm organizations use the information to help form their policy positions. . In Pennsylvania, from August through November, approximately 450 producers of barley, corn, hay, oats, soybeans, and winter wheat are asked to assist in this important survey, which will vary slightly by month.

Near the end of each month, selected producers will be mailed a pre-survey letter explaining the importance of the survey along with a questionnaire. Operators may return the survey through the mail, complete it through our secure web site, or wait to be telephoned or personally visited by a NASDA enumerator, who will collect the required survey information.

"Participation of our farmers is essential to ensure that Pennsylvania production is being accurately measured," said Kevin Pautler, Director, NASS, Pennsylvania Field Office.

Individual information is completely **CONFIDENTIAL** by law. "NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all survey responses and publishes only state and national level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," stated Kevin Pautler. "Complete, accurate and timely reporting by farm operators makes the Agricultural Yield Survey an effective tool for measuring the Nation's crop production."

Results from the surveys will be published in the *Crop Production* report from Washington, D.C. monthly, usually between the 9th and the 12th of the month. Results will also be available on the internet at www.nass.usda.gov. Data from the survey can be viewed in the *Keystone Ag Digest*. This bi-monthly publication is accessible from our web site, www.nass.usda.gov/pa. For more information, contact Babs Bryant at 717-657-6315.

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